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NEWARK, N.J.
STAR-LEDGER

M - 238,474
S - 390,627

OCT 25 1966

FOIAb3b

A CASTRO DOCUMENTARY?

In business selling the 'truth'

By MARK FINSTON

NEW YORK — Edward Scannell Butler, a 32-year-old New Orleans man, is in town to watch the 60-minute television show he wrote and directed, "Hitler in Havana," which premieres tonight at 10:30 on WOR-TV. The program, which will be shown on a number of in-

Reporter at Large

dependent television stations throughout the country in coming weeks, compares Castro's takeover in Cuba with Hitler's rise to power in Germany.

Butler, a clean-cut six-footer with wavy hair, who speaks in the soft southern

strains of his native Louisiana, was one of the founders, and is now executive vice president, of the Information Council of the Americas. This private organization endeavors to combat revolutions, especially Communist revolutions, with propaganda. Butler considers "true." For example, it sends "truth tapes" condemning Communism and Castro to Latin American radio stations.

"This, I hope, is the start of a new profession, treating political dislocation just as medicine treats a disease," he says. "We must show people a better way. Often the forum is dominated by a Communist or a Nazi or a Ku Kluxer. The others stay silent."

What Butler hopes, is that the "others," fair-minded people like himself, will get

aid for talking up.

The former advertising and public relations man had an opportunity to put his theories into practice on August 21, 1963. He was to be one of the questioners on a New Orleans talk-type radio program. The guest was a young man who was secretary for the New Orleans chapter of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. The young man's name was Lee Harvey Oswald.

The radio program was taped, and the remarkable interview (complete with analysis by Butler and others) is now available on an LP record.

Oswald, who spoke although he had memorized every word, was frequently embarrassed by Butler's questions and comments,

which were obviously well researched. Oswald finally admitted he was a "Marxist." Butler pressed him on the distinction between a Marxist and a Communist (Oswald had said his Fair Players had nothing to do with communism), and Oswald's answer was far from satisfactory.

Some of the record is interesting for other reasons. Oswald was asked if he agreed with Castro that President John F. Kennedy was a "ruffian and a thief."

Oswald's reply:

"I would not agree with that, or, particularly, regarding, however, I and the er, Fair Play for Cuba Committee does think that the United States Government through certain agencies, mainly the State Department and the CIA, have made monumental mistakes in its relations with Cuba. Mistakes which are pushing Cuba into the sphere of activities of let's say a very dogmatic country such as China is."

After starting the information council in 1961, Butler tried to interest business concerns in his ideas. He found two takers in the Technicolor Corp. And the Schick Safety Razor Co. (Schick is sponsoring the Hitler-Castro TV show tonight.)

The Communist revolution is not the only conflict to occupy Butler's attention. There is the radical revolution, the teen-age revolution, even the technological revolution, all of which, Butler believes, can be directed onto healthier, more positive paths than they are now heading.

The work will be done by professional "conflict managers," like Butler; perhaps someday each city or ward will have its own conflict manager to direct positively the various revolutions taking place.

The vagueness does not bother Butler, who believes heart and soul in his work. His next television spectacular will deal with the youth rebellion.